(b) if so, why the pay-scale of Area Managers of Regional Rural Banks have not been settled even after two years; and.

(c) by when the pay scales are likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OP STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The National Bank for Agriculture Rural Development (NABARD) after consultation with the Government issued instructions in December, 1984 prescribing *inter-alia* tlfe norms for the creation of posts of Area/Senior Managers in the Regional Rural Banks. These managers were allowed to draw a special pay of Rs. 75/- p. m. in addition to the grade pay of the officer concerned. It has now been decided to pay a special pay at the rate of 10 per cent of the basic pay of the incumbents *to* the post of Area Senior Managers with effect from 1st January, 1)87. •Necessary instructions have also been issued in this behalf by NABARD.

Merger of Regional Rural Banks' with * Commercial Banks

1924. SHRI NARAYAN KAR; Will PRIME MINISTER, be pleased to state whether Government' propose to merge Regional Rural Banks with Commercial Banks and if so the de-. tails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): No, Sir. Government are of the view that Regional Rural Banks should continue to function as separate entities for catering to the credit requirements of small borrowers.

Armed Gawds to vulnerable branches of Regional Rural Banks

1925. SHRI STJKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased, to state:

(a) whether Government have advised *(be* Regional Rural Banks to identify vulnerable branches anal ar-rangm-guardj at the c«wt ofSponsoring Bank; and

(b) if so, how many pockets piegi-onal Rural Banks-wise) have so far been identified and at how many po-. ckets such arm-guards have feeen placed?

THE MINISTER OP STATB IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Re-gional Rural Banks were advised by the Government in July, 11)85 to identify branches located in high risk and disturbance prone pockets in cwtftul-lation with concerned Sponsor Banks and request the State Governments for providing necessary security arrangements. The State Governments in their capacity of share holders in the equity of RRBs are expected to service free of cost hi - case where any State Government insists on levying of charges for services rendered, the Sponsor Banks should bear the same.

The present daiing sys-tem does not generate the information Moreover, the time and energy likely fo be spent in colksctms such information may not be commen surate with the objective to be achieved.

Special increment for not joining *strike* employees of Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin. Bank

1926. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will' the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are awav that management of Fatehpur Kshet-riya Gramin Bank allowed special In crement' to those who did not join the strike at the call given by All India Rural Bank Employees Association re cently;

(b) whether there is any such pro vision in service rules; and

(c whether Government do not consider it an unfair labour "practice?